

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed July 10, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered.

By means of the present amendment, claims 2 and 9 have been canceled without prejudice and their features included in independent claims 1 and 8, respectively. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present Amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, 1-6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,680,577 (Inukai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,192 (Hirane). Further, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Inukai in view of Hirane and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030647 (Hack). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 are patentable over Inukai, Hirane and Hack for at least the following reasons.

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, in rejecting claim 2, FIG. 5A-5F, column 3, lines 25-40 and column 8, lines 51-55 of Hirane are cited to allegedly show that the duration of one phase

is approximately n times the duration of the other phase, where n is the number n of drive current levels including zero of first drive currents.

It is respectfully submitted that the cited sections of Hirane merely disclose dividing a frame into partitions and using a ratio of write-in period to display period to perform multiple write-ins. Further, column 5, lines 42-45 of Hirane discloses that the "number of divisions of one frame increases with increasing gradations."

It is respectfully submitted that Inukai, Hirane, and combination thereof, do not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claim 8 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the first plurality of drive currents comprises a number n of drive current levels including zero, and wherein a duration of one phase is approximately n times a duration of the other phase.

Having the duration of one phase be approximately n times the duration of the other phase, where n is the number of drive current levels of a the first plurality of drive currents, is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Inukai, Hirane, alone or in combination. Rather, Hirane merely discloses that the number of divisions of one

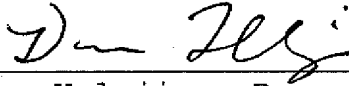
frame increases with increasing gradations. Hack is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in Inukai and Hirane.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 8 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-7 and 10-14 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1 and 8.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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